GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1698
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
ROADS TO TOURIST AND RELIGIOUS PLACES
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Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to construct roads to connect all the tourist and religious places in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has coordinated with the Deptt. of Tourism and State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to connect such places with the network of roads?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) and (b) As a part of the policy initiative for developing destinations / circuits of national importance as mega projects, the Ministry of Tourism has identified a list of roads for improving connectivity of 15 out of 22 destinations / circuits identified so far.

(c) to (e) An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) was constituted in February, 2007 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Road Transport & Highways) to prepare a status note on the identified road segments connecting the major tourist destinations / heritage sites and suggest a plan of action for their upgradation. Secretary (Tourism) is also a member of this IMG. The IMG has recommended for improvement of road connectivity for six important tourist destinations from the list of 22 tourist destinations, which have been prioritized by the Ministry of Tourism in consultations with other Ministries. These are improvement of identified road connectivity to Agra, Varanasi − Sarnath, Puri − Bhubaneshwar − Konark − Chilka, Charminar area of Hyderabad, Aurangabad and Amritsar. These identified road connectivity include National Highways (NHs) and State roads. The IMG has also given recommendations for improving the road connectivity to Mahabalipuram, Hampi, Ajmer and Chitrakoot, which are included in the identified list of 22 destinations.

This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of NHs. The details of the identified road connectivity to six tourist destinations prioritized by the Ministry of Tourism and the initiatives taken by the Government for development of the NH connectivity included therein are annexed.